



LEADERS FOR DEMOCRACY FELLOWSHIP (LDF)

An exchange program for emerging civic leaders

The U.S. Embassy in Morocco is pleased to announce the call for applications for the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) – Leaders for Democracy Fellowship (LDF) exchange program. The fellowship is scheduled to take place from February 20 to May 20, 2017 at the University of Virginia in the United States.

The application deadline is Monday, October 31, 2016. No late applications will be accepted.

WHO CAN APPLY?

An applicant must:

- Be a Moroccan citizen aged 25-35 living in Morocco;
- Hold at least a bachelor's degree;
- Have strong English fluency sufficient to function successfully in a high-level academic as well as professional environment;
- Have at least 5 years of experience working as a professional in a political reform oriented field (e.g. civil society, rule of law, human rights, family law reform, etc.);
- Demonstrate a commitment to civic engagement and to being a generator of positive change within his/her community;
- Have little or no prior experience in the United States.

HOW TO APPLY?

Candidates should submit their online application at <https://ldf.fluidreview.com/>

The site will accept applications starting on **October 1**, and the application deadline is **October 31, 2016**.

Any question can be sent to the following e-mail address rabatexchanges@state.gov.

WHAT IS THE LEADERS FOR DEMOCRACY FELLOWSHIP?

The MEPI Leaders for Democracy Fellowship (LDF) Program is a three-month program in the United States for young civic leaders from the Middle East and North Africa. The program begins with five weeks of academic coursework, during which fellows focus on leadership, democracy, communication, and conflict resolution. Fellows complete relevant seminars and workshops that address theoretical debates as well as active, practical skills-building sessions. After completing the academic portion of the program, participants engage in a nine-week professional assignment with a host organization of professional interest in Washington, DC. Through this program component, participants will gain a practical understanding of the interactions between government and civil society while also obtaining valuable knowledge, skills, and professional contacts to benefit their professional pursuits in their home countries.

To promote program sustainability and to create a multiplier effect, participants will create and implement follow-on projects in their home communities. Actions plans for the follow-on projects will be developed and finalized throughout the course of the program.

Those selected will come from diverse backgrounds and LDF aims for gender balance.